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ABSTRACT

Any topic, math included, becomes more accessible and understandable when human stories are related about the development of the subject. Stories make subjects real and purposeful. They provide a foundation from which students can understand and appreciate mathematics rather than merely memorize a series of rote exercises. This book presents 16 stories focusing on significant developments in mathematics history. The stories are divided into four groups. Stories about numbers include: "Numbers in the Sand"; "Something from Nothing"; "Imagine That..."; and "Infinity...and Beyond." Stories about geometry include: "Elementary Elements"; "'Flying' High"; and "Shadow Boxing." Stories about mathematical concepts include: "The Weighing Game"; "The Odds Are..."; "Smaller Makes Bigger"; "A Bridge to Math"; "The Truth about 'M. Le Blanc'"; "Out of Time"; and "One Step Forward, One Step Back." Stories about calculating machines include: "No Bones about It!"; and "Amazing Grace." Each story contains an at a glance section, terms to know, and follow-on questions and activities to explore. (Contains 84 references.) (ASK)

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